What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

SHANNA SCHMIDT NUMISMATICS INC

Newsletter #225:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Happy Valentine's Day my fellow coin friends! I'm not a huge fan of celebrating all the smaller holidays but in order to prove to my husband that this was not just another "Hallmark" holiday I did some research. Turns out that Valentine's Day originated from a Roman festival called Lupercalia that was held in mid-February and involved the coupling of men and women by lottery, animal sacrifice and lots of alcohol! Sometime later in history, a Roman priest name Valentine, under the emperor Claudius II (reigned 268-270 AD) was arrested and sentenced to death by beheading. His crime? He secretly married young lovers against the orders of Claudius II. Before his death, he sent a letter to his jailer's daughter which is said to have sparked the whole evolution of Valentine's Day. All this blood and gore honestly doesn't sound so romantic to me. Turns out that Valentine's Day didn't become a romantic holiday as we know it until the 14th century. In the middle-ages, people used handmade paper cards to profess their affection for one another until the Industrial Revolution allowed for factory-made cards in the 19th century. Finally, the holiday did become a Hallmark holiday in 1913 when the company began to mass-produce Valentine's cards. Thank you Google AI!

Now for some coin related news:

ANA National Money Show in Atlanta (Feb 27 - March 1)
I mentioned the show in my last newsletter but since it is still yet to come I thought I might mention it one more time. I had some interesting feedback from folks regarding anchoring the World's Fair of Money (WFOM). I appreciate hearing from people even if you don't agree with me. Someone suggested Atlanta for the summer show. I'm definitely not opposed to Atlanta for the WFOM since it is a hub city and the unions seem to be pretty reasonable there. We might want to consider moving the show to a time of the year that isn't super hot, however having said that, since we spend most of the time in a cold convention center I suppose this isn't a huge issue. If you are a member of the ANA, (and you should be if you aren't since it costs nothing and it helps support the trade and collecting), please continue to take interest in where the most important convention of the year takes place. We want to continue to keep it relevant and a go-to destination for all.

Tyler and I will be at booth 517 representing both SSNI as well as NAC USA. We will have stock from both companies and are happy to discuss consignment opportunities with anyone interested. Please get in touch if you want to discuss ahead of time. If you want to see the full program please check the website here:

CNG E581 (19 Feb)

Collection of Alexandrian coinage. Mr. Benak's coins were featured in the New York International sale last month and continue in this sale. Also included are 21 more coins from the Robert Hubel Collection. Mr. Hubel collection from 1929-1939 in the area of Roman Republican coinage. In the Roman Provincial section, one can find interesting countermarked and damnatio coins from the Severan Dynasty (lots 288-305). You can also find many fine examples in the Roman Imperial section as well for reasonable prices depending on what holes you need to fill in your collection. At the end of the sale are a number of books for sale at low starting prices.

Stacks Bowers 2025 World Collectors Choice - L.E. Bruun Coins of Denmark (19 Feb) and L.E. Bruun Coins of Norway, Sweden & Germany (20 Feb)
The first part of the Bruun sale took place last Spring in lovely Copenhagen, Denmark with a fully packed house. The hammers were shockingly high and most coins were far out of the average collector's reach. The Bruun sales are continuing and will do so for quite some time so lower value and more attainable pieces will be available from this amazing collection. On February 19, Stacks will host a sale of coins of Denmark with 400 lots. The selection starts with coins as early as Harald Bluetooth (c. 975-985 AD) and spans until 1908 ending with Frederik VIII. There will be much more affordable material in this sale.

Day two of the sale is 594 lots from Norway, Sweden and Germany. Again, there are lower grade pieces but from a prized collection that is assured to be popular amongst collectors.

Stacks Bowers 2025 World Collectors Choice - Richard Margolis Collection (21 Feb)
For those unfamiliar with Richard Margolis, he was a longtime dealer of world coins and medals who passed away in 2018. His love was French coins and medals. Stacks Bowers has been selling his collection since 2024. Another interesting story about Richard Margolis. Richard and his wife Sara were responsible for New York International Coin Convention from the fifth show in 1976 until 9/11 when the Twin Towers fell and the show was moved to the Waldorf Astoria.

There are 219 lots in this small but lovely sale of world medals. Geographically, the medals are all over Europe but several do come from France, a favorite of the late Mr. Margolis.

Obolos Web Auction 36 (23 Feb)
Nomos is having their 36th web sale on February 23 with 1,197 lots. This is a larger than normal electronic sale for one day so get ready for a long day if you participate. This is not a specifically named sale but rather from various collector/consignors. There are 530 Greek coins in the sale which is the largest percentage. The next largest area is Roman provincial at 169 lots and a close third are world coins at 146 lots. A few notables for me: Lot 9 is an interesting obol from Gaul that has a crude but rather interesting looking crab. Lot 68 and 69 present a good opportunity to get a Carthage electrum stater at a reasonable level. Lot 70, a drachm from Istros is a common type but in very nice condition with high relief. It also has a over 20 year old pedigree. Lot 232 and 233 are two opportunities to get an early Aegina sea turtle for a reasonable price. Both have minor issues but are mostly complete. Lot 464 is slightly off center but a great type from Seleukos I. Lot 547-567 is a rather large section of coins from Kyrenaika including a desirable gold stater from Kyrene (lot 563). The Roman Provincial section has several nice opportunity coins with low starting prices. Lot 740 is a Republican type with a wonderful reverse type showing a biga of centaurs. The coin is struck under the moneyer M. Aurelius Cotta in 139 BC. It isn't a beauty but lot 837, an antoninianus of Jotapian a usurper from c. 248-9 AD, is an extreme rarity and difficult to find. Lot 1009, a 10 Mark token that was used in the Lodz Ghetto during the second World War is historically very interesting. We will be participating in this auction so please get in touch if you need representation.

Naville 94 (23 Feb)
Naville has 815 lots in their upcoming auction on February 23rd. The auction lots are

and Medieval/Modern coinage. A few highlights: Lot 17, a hemidrachm from Tarentum has a fantastic pedigree going back to a Ratto auction from 1929. It was also in the Glendining sale from 1955 of Lockett. Lot 44 is a reasonably estimated tetradrachm from Syracuse with a lovely Arethusa reverse and is mostly complete. Lot 61 is another reasonably priced tetradrachm from the Carthaginians in Sicily. It is from the David Miller collection (a now deceased but well-known British dealer). Lot 73 is a pedigreed and nice example of Antigonus II Gonatas. Check throughout for BCD duplicates throughout the sale. I noticed several opportunities. Lot 142 is a very cool type that doesn't come around too often. It was an emergency issue from Athens; a plated tetradrachm which is extremely rare. This coin was privately purchased from Harlan Berk. Lot 144 is sadly off center on the obverse but it has a very desirable reverse type of a labyrinth and it comes from the David Sellwood collection. Lot 229 is a lovely and toned Ptolemy I tetradrachm with a pedigree back to 2016 from the HJB BBS 197. Lot 248 is a beautiful bronze of Gordian III from Thrace with a spectacular reverse type of Hercales fighting a hydra. Lot 439 has some surface issues (which are noted) but the reverse type of Hercales shooting down birds is fascinating. Lot 484 is an interesting an not often seen tessera with a facing gorgon on the obverse and a man/herma on the reverse. Lot 658 is a pretty silvered antoninanus of Tacitus that was purchased privately from Ed Waddell. Lot 680 is an attractive antoninianus of Carausius that was purchased privately from Harlan Berk. Lot 708 is a sharp and attractive follis of Constantine I purchased privately from David Herman. Lot 726 is a very rare medallion weighing 10.43g of Valentinian I. It comes from an Astarte auction from 1998. We will be participating in this sale so please let us know if you need representation.

Coin of the week

Sicily, Messana. c. 430 BC
AR Tetradrachm, 17.27g (27mm, 11h).

ΜΕΣ - ΣΑΝΑ (retrograde). The nymph Messana, wearing chiton and peplos, standing r., driving slow biga of mules, holding the reins with both her hands, the kentron in her r. hand.; in exergue, two dolphins, swimming to meet each other / Μ - ΕΣΣΑΝ - ΙΟ - Ν (retrograde). Hare leaping r., below, dolphin swimming l.

Pedigree: From an old Swiss Collection started in the 19th century
References: SNG ANS 363 (same dies). Caltabiano 285, 531 (same dies)

Grade: Lovely cabinet toning. Incredibly well-struck. Mint State

Price: $19,500

gk1998

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Unlike most other Sicilian coinage depicting chariots, the coinage of Messana does not in fact portray horses, but a pair of donkeys! This was in order to honor the Olympic victory won by the local tyrant Anaxilas in either 484 or 480 BC. Additionally, the rabbit (or hare) on the reverse was employed since Anaxilas was supposedly responsible for introducing the animal to the island. Another interesting aspect is that the hare was sacred to Pan, a god revered at Messana. This particular coin, however, was struck less than 50 years after the city gained its independence form the Anaxilid tyrants in 461 BC. Interestingly they changed their name from Zankle to the more common Messana. They continued to retain the majority of their numismatic imagery, probably in order to retain a portion of the honor and prestige of an Olympic victory.

Coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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